

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 196362
ORIGIN IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 OES-07 AID-05 ARA-10 EA-10
EUR-12 NEA-10 ERDA-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00
DODE-00 EB-08 FEAE-00 FPC-01 H-01 INR-07 INT-05
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 USIA-06 SP-02
SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 PA-01 PRS-01 OIC-02
/159 R

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APPROVED BY IO/IEP:DHCOHN
OES/ENV/EN:BLONG
AID/PPC:PSALES
IO/ML:WPKRIEBEL
IO:AMBASSADOR RAWLS

-----085967 181748Z /53

P R 181601Z AUG 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO ALL OECD CAPITALS PRIORITY
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UN, SENV, EGEN, OCON

SUBJECT: UN DESERTIFICATION CONFERENCE (AUGUST 29-
SEPTEMBER 9 IN NAIROBI)

1. UN DESERTIFICATION CONFERENCE (GENERAL BACKGROUND IN
PARA 4) WILL BE ASKED TO ADDRESS ISSUE OF CONSORTIUM
FINANCING FOR ANTI-DESERTIFICATION MEASURES. FINAL DOCU-
MENT SUBMITTED BY CONFERENCE SECRETARIAT RAISES THIS SUB-
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JECT EXPLICITLY FOR FIRST TIME IN CONFERENCE DOCUMENTATION.
ENTITLED "ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL ASPECTS OF PLAN OF ACTION
TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION", DOCUMENT IN PARA 31 STATES:
"IN THE LIGHT OF THIS REVIEW OF THE ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL
ASPECTS OF THE PLAN OF ACTION, IT IS CONSIDERED THAT A
CONSORTIUM APPROACH WOULD BE THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY OF
IMPLEMENTING AND FINANCING THE PLAN. A CONSORTIUM WOULD

HAVE THE ADVANTAGE OF SPREADING THE BURDEN OF FINANCING RATHER THAN CONCENTRATING IT ON ONE SINGLE SOURCE OF FUNDS."

2. WE ARE NOT COMMITTE8 FOR OR AGAINST A CONSORTIUM APPROACH. WE BELIEVE IT PREMATURE TO CONSIDER THE SUITABILITY OF APPLYING SUCH A CONCEPT AT THE CONFERENCE AS WE FIND THE PLAN OF ACTION MUCH TOO GENERAL TO PROVIDE A BASIS FOR FINANCING AND IMPLEMENTING A PROGRAM OF WORK, ON GLOBAL, REGIONAL AND COUNTRY-SPECIFIC LEVELS. WE WILL DEVELOP A FIRM POSITION ON THE CONSORTIUM WHEN WE LEARN MORE ABOUT PROPOSED DETAILS. WE WOULD BE OPPOSED HOWEVER TO ANY ADVANCE COMMITMENTS OR TARGETS FOR RESOURCES FOR A CONSORTIUM. WE SEE MERIT IN THE CONFERENCE CONSIDERING POSSIBLE MECHANISMS FOR FOLLOW-UP ACTION TO REFINE AND DEVELOP THE PLAN IN MORE SPECIFIC TERMS AND FOR CO-ORDINATION (POSSIBLY THROUGH PROPOSED UNEP DESERTIFICATION UNIT) OF EXISTING EFFORTS OF DONOR COUNTRIES AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN ORDER TO BETTER FOCUS COMBINED EFFORT ON PROBLEMS OF DESERTIFICATION.

3. ACTION ADDRESSEES REQUESTED TO ASK FOR HOST COUNTRY VIEWS ON THIS MATTER, PLUS ANY OTHER MAJOR ISSUES/PROBLEMS THEY SEE ARISING AT CONFERENCE, AND REPORT BACK AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. REPLIES SHOULD INCLUDE NAIROBI, GENEVA, AND USUN AS INFO ADDRESSEES.

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4. THE UN DESERTIFICATION CONFERENCE FOLLOWS THE WATER CONFERENCE AS THE NEXT IN THE SERIES OF UN-SPONSORED CONFERENCES ON GLOBAL RESOURCE PROBLEMS. SOME 100 COUNTRIES AND 60 INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS ARE EXPECTED TO ATTEND. THE CONFERENCE WAS APPROVED BY THE 2 TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT THE URGING OF AFRICAN COUNTRIES AFFECTED BY THE DROUGHT IN THE SAHEL. IT WAS SUBSEQUENTLY DECIDED THAT THE CONFERENCE SHOULD CONSIDER THE WORLD-WIDE PROBLEM OF THE LOSS OF PRODUCTIVE CAPACITY OF THE EARTH'S ARID LANDS. THE MAJOR OBJECTIVES OF THE CONFERENCE ARE THE FOLLOWING: INCREASE IN AWARENESS OF THE DESERT EXPANSION PROBLEM; ANALYSIS OF CAUSES AND EFFECTS; IDENTIFICATION OF THE AREAS MOST PRONE TO DESERTIFICATION; AND AGREEMENT ON AN INTERNATIONAL PLAN OF ACTION. THE U.S. DELEGATION WILL BE HEADED BY UNDER SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR JAMES A. JOSEPH. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Concepts: DESERTIFICATION, SOIL EROSION, SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 18-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Subject: UN DESERTIFICATION CONFERENCE (AUGUST 29- SEPTEMBER 9 IN NAIROBI)
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To: OECD POSTS
Type: TE
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